



Law Syllabus

Grand Haven High School



Course Number: C20

Grade Level: 10-12

Credits : 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite Courses : None

Course Description

This course is designed to engage students in a critical examination of the structure and function of the United States legal system. Students will be introduced to contemporary legal issues in the areas of constitutional, civil, and criminal law through a variety of methods such as discussion, cooperative learning, simulations, case analysis, lecture, guest speakers and a mock trial. The goal of this class is to increase students' practical understanding of how the justice system really works. A wide range of topics will be explored including court structure, juries, important legal cases, terminology, crime, capital punishment, and the Bill of Rights.

Course Objectives

Students will develop and improve their skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Critical thinking skills.
- Critical reading skills.
- Argumentative writing.
- Primary and secondary source analysis.
- Debate skills and strategies.
- Public speaking.
- Career opportunities within the legal field.
- Structure and function of the United States legal system.

Student Expectations

The following expectations provide students with the best opportunity to enhance their skills and understanding:

- Engage and participate in class discussions.
- Come to class prepared with all homework assignments completed.
- Take ownership of learning.
- Give best effort.
- Arrive to class on time with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.
- Respect classmates, teachers, self, and the classroom.

Building Behavioral Expectations

TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

Together, Excellence, Accountability, Mindfulness ... GO BUCS

Communication

Communication with both parents and students will occur through a combination of the following:

- In class oral and written instructions.
- Google Classroom.
- Email.
- Parent VUE / Student VUE allows students and parents to view academic progress.

Grading Policy

The combination of the following categories will be used to calculate student grades:

- 80% of the semester grade is composed of essays, tests, projects, and simulations (Summative Assessments).
- 20% of the semester grade is composed of in-class assignments, participation, quizzes, and homework (Formative Assessments).
- The final exam will be comprehensive and will count for 20% of the overall semester grade.

Scope and Sequence

- Introduction to Law and the Legal System
- Constitutional Law (mixed-in throughout the semester)
- Supreme Court
- Juries
- Careers in Law
- Crime
- Amendments and the Law
- Controversial Issues
- Plea Bargains
- Mock Trial
- Prison System
- Capital Punishment
- Final Exam

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